

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1847

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6927

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, GE, GW

SUBJECT: INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) BONN 20378; (B) USBERLIN 2565

1. WE HAVE LEARNED IN A CHANCE CONVERSATION WITH A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN THAT GDR AUTHORITYS ARE STALLING IN PROVIDING FINAL AGREEMENT TO THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THIS OFFICIAL TOLD US AT THE END OF THE WORKING DAY ON DECEMBER 18 THAT GAUS HAD NOTIFIED THE GDR REGIME ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 17 OF HIS READINESS TO SIGN THE LUMP SUM AGREEMENT AND THEREBY INITIATE THE VARIOUS EXCHANGES OF DOCUMENTS THAT WERE TO FOLLOW. NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM THE EAST GERMAN SIDE SINCE THEN, ALTHOUGH UP TO THAT POINT THE GDR HAD STRONGLY URGED THAT THE AGREEMENTS COME INTO FORCE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

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3. STILL NEEDED FROM THE EAST GERMANS IS THEIR FORMAL AGREEMENT TO THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. GAUS HAD INFORMED THE CABINET IN BONN EARLIER THIS WEEK THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT THIS WAS A PROCEDURAL MATTER FOR THE GDR, AND HE FORESAW NO REASON WHY THE AGREEMENT WOULD NOT ENTER INTO FORCE AS PLANNED. GAUS HAD EXPECTED TO RECEIVE THE GDR RESPONSE EITHER ON THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 17, OR SOME TIME TODAY. ALTHOUGH A SCENARIO FOR AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AND ORAL STATEMENTS ON THE INNER-GERMAN TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN DEVELOPED IN PRINCIPLE (REF B), THERE WAS AS YET NO UNDERSTANDING WITH GDR COUNTERPARTS AS TO THE SCHEDULE TO BE FOLLOWED.

4. THE FRG IS FULLY PREPARED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT. THIS OFFICIAL DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT SILENCE FROM THE EAST GERMAN SIDE SINCE LAST WEDNESDAY IS RELATED TO DIFFICULTIES ON SUBSTANCE, ALTHOUGH HE ACKNOWLEDGES THAT BOTH SIDES HAVE, IN THE PAST, USED STALLING TACTICS TO GAIN LAST MINUTE CONCESSIONS. THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES SEEM TO LIE WHOLLY OUTSIDE OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THE OFFICIAL CHARACTERIZED THE ATMOSPHERE IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMANIES AS "DIFFICULT AND GETTING HARDER BY THE MOMENT."

5. COMMENT: THE EAST GERMANS MAY BE SENDING THEIR WESTERN COUNTERPARTS A STRONG AND UNEXPECTED SIGNAL OF DISPLEASURE. IF SO, THE REGIME IS PROBABLY REACTING TO THE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY IN THE FRG CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO REPORTS OF FORCED CHILD ADOPTION MEASURES BY THE GDR. THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY ISSUED AN OFFICIAL DECLARATION FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND ON DECEMBER 18 WHICH IMPLICITLY LINKS THE ADOPTION SCANDAL TO FRG/GDR RELATIONS. IT STATES THAT THE GOAL OF AN "UNBRIDLED CAMPAIGN OF AGITATION" UNLEASHED AGAINST THE GDR BY "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN THE FRG IS TO HINDER "FURTHER STEPS TOWARD THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND FRG", AND ATTEMPT WHICH THE MFA DESCRIBES AS DOOMED TO FAILURE (SEE SEPTTEL). CONCERN ON THE PART OF FRG OFFICIALS IN BERLIN ABOUT THE DELAY IS GENUINE AND DEEP. ALTHOUGH THE GDR IS CLEARLY UPSET

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BY THE PUBLICITY ON FORCED ADOPTION, AND THE CONSEQUENCES IT HAS ALREADY HAD TO SUFFER, THERE IS SO MUCH AT STAKE IN THE TRANSIT AGREEMENT THAT IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THE GDR WILL PUT IT IN JEOPARDY.

GROVE

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